
NA History Chronology

1944

First written evidence of a Twelve Step Fellowship for addicts.

1947

Early in the year, Houston S., a recovering alcoholic, talks to Dr. Victor Vogel at P.H.S. Hospital. He believes Twelve Steps could work for addicts. Offers to assist in starting a group at the hospital.

1947

February 16th was the date of the first meeting held in Lexington, Kentucky. Weekly meetings continued for almost twenty years. They called themselves the NARCO group. Later called themselves Addicts Anonymous.

1947

Dan Carlson, a seven time loser back at Lexington, starts attending NARCO group. Six months later is discharged clean.

1948

Major Dorothy Berry and Daniel Carlson along with Mrs. Rae Lopez start a group called Narcotics Anonymous within New York prison systems in New York City.

1948

Fort Worth, Texas Federal Narcotics Farm adopts the Lexington model.

1949

Dan returns to Lexington for the 8th time. This time he surrenders. Becomes active participant in NARCO group.

1949

Salvation Army offers meeting space to Dan for Narcotics Anonymous meeting at 45th Street cafeteria.

1949

YMCA offers meeting room on Wednesday nights to Dan.

1950

During this timeframe, NOTROL 12 Step groups start at Federal Prison in Lorton, VA. NOTROL is Lorton spelled backwards. Believe started by former Lexington inmates.

1950

HFD - Habit Forming Drug groups began forming around Los Angeles. Usually in conjunction with AA meetings. Also held in homes. Betty Thom does much writing: HFD 12 Step guide and other pieces. Groups are very religious and tied to A.A. Did not consider themselves a fellowship.

1952

In his 20th Anniversary speech, Jimmy K. refers to Addicts Anonymous meetings happening in East L.A. Says these meetings were dominated by one man. This was Si Malos. Other reports of members of this Addicts Anonymous meeting with city officials.

1950 to 1953

In New York, Chicago, Virginia, Lexington, Texas and California, individual groups named Addicts Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and HFD were happening. Most of these groups were independent of each other. These were groups, not fellowships. The only common link appears to have been

the Salvation Army in New York and Chicago. A newsletter called the Key circulated around Lorton, Virginia; Lexington, Kentucky; Texas and Los Angeles, California. One of the editors of the Key says they had a mail list of ninety in 1952.

1953

Jimmy K's reference of July 1953 probably refers to six weeks of discussions ("arguing") held early that summer before any bylaws were written. Jimmy was known in the local AA Fellowship as a recovering alcoholic addict. Many happenstance and "rabbit" meetings were held at his house.

1953

Jimmy attended the third meeting of a recovery group effort started by Jack P. at the request of local police. Si Malos had been at the first two. Jack is a recovering alcoholic and didn't understand the way attendees would nod in and out. Jack had done as much as he knew how to do and was ready to quit. Jack asked Jimmy to help and Jimmy said he would.

1953

August 17 - First documented beginning of what became today's N.A. Frank Carnahan, Doris Carnahan, Guilda Krause, Paul Rosenbluth, Steve Ryan and Jimmy Kinnon met "For the purpose of organizing an AANA group." The name was to be San Fernando Valley Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

1953

Over the next few months, this committee met regularly.

